
Judging a debate

Adjudication of serious, formal debating is very complex. The method of judging depends on the type of debating competition involved. However, a common method for judging school debates is as follows:

Each speaker is given marks in three different categories, to give a total out of 100 marks;

- **Matter** (40 marks) - this is "what is said". It is the content material presented by the speaker, and the adjudicator assesses its credibility and relevance to the moot.
- **Manner** (40 marks) - this is "how it is said", how the speaker presented the material. The adjudicator assesses aspects such as: stance, voice, audibility, eye contact, use of notes, use of humour, persuasiveness.
- **Method** (20 marks) - this is an assessment of how the speaker has used the techniques of debating. The adjudicator will consider such things as how the speech related to the team case, how the speech was structured, whether the speaker used peroration, whether the speaker kept to time.

Added to the team total out of 300 will be:

- a mark out of 50 for the Leader's Reply, and
- a mark out of 50 for overall Teamwork.

The final mark for each team will therefore be out of 400.

Level: Snr/Int/Jnr

Round No: _____

Venue: _____

Date: _____

DEBATING MARKSHEET

Moot: _____

Affirmative Team: _____

Affirmative Team	Matter /40	Manner /40	Method /20	Totals
1				/100
2				/100
3				/100
Leader's Reply				/50
Teamwork				/50
FINAL TOTAL				/400

Negative Team: _____

Negative Team	Matter /40	Manner /40	Method /20	Totals
1				/100
2				/100
3				/100
Leader's Reply				/50
Teamwork				/50
FINAL TOTAL				/400

Winning Team: _____

Confirmation of Result (Signatures)

Chair: _____

Adjudicator: _____